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The Permanent Mission of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the United Nations Office, the World Trade Organization and Other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Special Procedures Branch of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and with reference to the Communication from Special Procedures **Ref AI VNM 9/2016** relating to allegations of attempted intrusion into a human rights defenders conference in Stockholm, has honour to inform the following replies of the Government of Viet Nam:

1. It is not in any case the policy of the Government of Viet Nam to send its officials to participate in the Annual Conference of Civil Rights Defenders held on 5 April 2016 in Stockholm, Sweden. The allegation that Vietnamese authorities attempted to "carry out surveillance of human rights defenders", "intimidate and possibly retaliate against them" is unfounded, superficial and biased

2. Everybody has the liberty to register and attend conferences and meetings in Sweden or anywhere. These activities are totally lawful. By the time of this Note, the Embassy of the S.R. of Viet Nam in Stockholm has not received any information nor exchange from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) of Sweden or the Swedish Security Policy (SAPO) about the incident claimed in the Communication.

3. Viet Nam is deeply concerned that the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders sent this Communication to the Government without accessing the conformity of the Communication with admissibility criteria stipulated in Article 9 of the Code of Conduct for Special Procedures Mandate-Holders of the Human Rights Council: the Communication is manifestly based on one-sided and unverified information. This constitutes a violation of the HRC's Resolution A/RES/5/2 and adversely affects the credibility of the concerned Special Rapporteur in particular and that of the Special Procedures in general.

4. The Government of Viet Nam has always showed its goodwill and cooperation with the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council. The action of the Special Rapporteur also affects the trust and the spirit of cooperation of the Government of Viet Nam.

The Permanent Mission of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the United Nations Office, the World Trade Organization and Other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew the Special Procedures Branch of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 28 January 2017



Special Procedures Branch
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
GENEVA